



Durham News Notes



Fall 2017

2017 Park Survey Results

In 2016, the City Council initiated an update to the 2005 Park Plan. As part of the update, the City conducted a survey of Durham residents to find how City parks were used and what improvements could better address the needs and desires of the community. The purpose of the survey was to:

- 1) Provide guidance to the Planning Commission, City Council and staff to develop an overall plan and identify short-term projects for the park properties, and
- 2) Better position the City to seek grant funding to assist with project completion.

The 2017 Park Survey was completed in August. Sixty-one households returned surveys. Fifty-one percent of survey respondents were between the ages of 61 and 75 years old. Forty-eight percent of the responses came from Kingsgate with 20% and 16% from Heron Grove and

Afton Commons, respectively.

Most respondents visited Durham City Parks at least one or twice a month. Thirty-two percent went to the park to walk their dogs while 44% went just to walk. Most respondents were aware of the new off-leash boundaries for dogs. Eighty-five percent thought the off-leash boundaries are reasonable.

A clear theme was to leave Durham Park as it is. Many respondents commented that they would like additional benches in areas of Durham Park. Only 16.4% of respondents requested that the play equipment be replaced. Some suggested that the picnic shelter be refurbished. Over half of the respondents were interested in having community sponsored events in the park.

Respondents wanted Heron Grove Park to be left as is. Some residents were concerned that installing additional benches or picnic tables at either park would attract transient loitering.

To see the complete results and comments, go to the City's website.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the survey on October 3, 2017. There was no public testimony at the hearing. The Planning Commission will move forward with drafting a Park Plan. The Park Committee will meet again in November to make recommendations and draft the plan. Once the draft plan is complete it will be forwarded to the City Council for approval.



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Hands On The Wheel - Mind On The Road

As of **Oct. 1, 2017** Oregon's new Distracted Driving Law became effective. It is now illegal to drive while holding or using an electronic device (e.g. cell phone, tablet, GPS, laptop). Here are a few cases where the new law does NOT apply:

- When using hands-free or built-in devices, if you are 18 years of age or older.
- Use of a single touch or swipe to activate or deactivate the device.
- When parked safely, i.e., stopped in a designated parking spot. However, it is NOT legal to use the device when stopped at a stop light, stop sign, in traffic, etc.
- While providing or summoning medical help and no one else is available to make the call.
- To truck or bus drivers following the federal rules for CDL holders.

Better to be safe, than sorry. It's best just to turn off your device when driving.

Map Your Neighborhood

The MYN committee is proud to announce that since Spring, nearly two-thirds of the 30 identified "Durham Household Clusters" have met to learn more about what to do in case of a natural disaster and how to help and support each other in a serious time of need! The goal is for all 30 Clusters to meet prior to the holiday season. If you have not heard from your host yet, you should be hearing from them soon. We are still looking for someone to host the cluster of homes that face Upper Boones Ferry Rd on the south end of Durham. If you are willing to host please contact Barbara Bracken at DBrac2@aol.com or (503) 620-1567. The recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean and the earthquakes in Mexico, that have had tragic and devastating effects on life, property, and infrastructure, are reminders that our efforts to be prepared are important.



Do Your Smoke Alarms Work? Have You Checked?

October is fire prevention month and that means checking your smoke alarms. It's important to hear the beep where you sleep and make sure every bedroom has a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These alarms use strobe lights or vibration to alert residents.

When was the last time you replaced your smoke alarm? Smoke alarms do not last forever. The sensors get clogged with dust and may not work when you need them to. You should replace your smoke alarms every 10 years. Check the manufacturer's date stamp on the back of the device.

Maintaining smoke alarms is essential. Vacuum your alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs. To ensure your smoke alarm is working, push the test button each month. When the smoke alarm battery is low or needs replacing, your alarm will generate a "chirp" or beep every few minutes. When this occurs, change the battery or replace the alarm with a new one. If you have photoelectric alarms, replace the batteries with long-life batteries for enhanced reliability.

There should be a working fire extinguisher in your kitchen, your garage and on each floor of your home. When you test your smoke alarms also take a minute to turn your fire extinguishers upside down a few times to make sure the chemicals don't settle in the bottom of your extinguisher. Go to visit www.tvfr.com for tools and more tips.



Summary of Recent Activities

- The Planning Commission approved two tree removal permits.
- A Kingsgate resident appealed a tree removal approval for a property in Kingsgate. The City Council heard the appeal and denied the tree removal application.
- Planning Commission is reviewing the process for applying for tree removals.
- The Planning Commission approved a front yard setback variance from 20 feet to 15 feet for an undeveloped property at the end of Peters Road.
- The annual audit of the City's finances was completed. The Audit firm found the City's financial records in good condition. The results are published on the City's website.
- The City Council is considering an annual rate increase request from Pride Disposal.

Monthly Meetings
City Council—4th Tuesday of the Month

Planning Commission—1st Tuesday of the Month

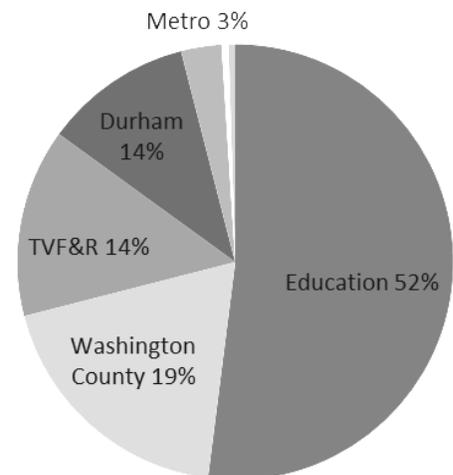
Both meetings start at 7:30pm at Durham City Hall.

DURHAM PROPERTY TAXES

Many of you will be receiving your annual Property Tax Statement before the end of October. Your tax statement shows the taxes collected for each of the districts in which your property is located. Each district collects a permanent tax rate for ongoing services and may collect additional operating levies or bonds that have been approved by voters. Property taxes in Durham include:

- **Education Taxes:** Assessed for Portland Community College, Tigard-Tualatin School District, and the Northwest Regional Educational Service District;
- **City Taxes:** Assessed for Durham. Property taxes pay for police, 911 dispatch, parks, planning, administration, and street lighting. Durham taxes also include funds to repay a bond approved to purchase the wooded lot in Kingsgate along Upper Boones Ferry Road;
- **County:** Assessed for Washington County. Property taxes pay for the sheriff, jails, district attorneys, parole and probation, juvenile guidance, the cooperative library system, recording, elections, planning, public health, aging services and road improvements;
- **TVF&R:** Assessed for Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue for fire and emergency response;
- **Regional Services:** Assessed for Metro for regional planning, solid waste, and the zoo; and
- **Other:** Assessed for the Tigard-Tualatin Aquatic District (pools) and the Port of Portland for airports and river port facilities. These assessments make less than 1% of your property taxes.

Your Property Taxes at Work



The **Assessed Value (AV)** is the value your taxes are based on. It is the lesser of the Real Market Value (RMV) or the **Maximum Assessed Value (MAV)** on your property. Generally, your Assessed Value is based on last year's value plus 3%.

Real Market Value (RMV) is the price your property would sell for in a transaction between a willing buyer and a seller on January 1. Each year, appraisers analyze actual sales information from each neighborhood in order to make adjustments needed to bring property values in line with current market activity. Maximum Assessed Value (MAV) is the value limit maintained for each property under the provisions of Ballot Measure 50. In 1997 (the first year of Measure 50) the MAV was established for each property based on its 1995-96 tax roll value minus 10%. Unless certain changes are made to your property, your MAV may increase by no more than 3% each year.

Exception Value is an additional value that may be added to the MAV for new construction, rezoning, partition, or subdivision. Exception Value may increase your Assessed Value by more than 3%. Maintenance and repairs are not exceptions and are not added to a property's Maximum Assessed Value.



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www.durham-oregon.us

Durham News Notes is written and published by City staff. We welcome information and contributions that may be of interest to Durham residents. The newsletter is published by the 15th day of the first month of each quarter. Deadline for inclusion is the 5th of the month. Archived newsletters are available online or at City Hall.

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COMMUNITY

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Bridgeport Turkeython 5K Fun Run

Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017 8:30am-10:30am

Bridgeport Village & Upper Boones Ferry Road

The run starts in Bridgeport Village, goes north on 72nd and turns south on UBFR through Durham. Runners return to Bridgeport Village via LBFR. The northbound lane of UBFR will be closed from 8:30 to 10:30am. The center left turn lane will be open.

Cougar Spotted in Durham City Park

In July, a park user reported seeing a cougar in Durham City Park. The reported sighting occurred 2 weeks after a confirmed sighting of a cougar was reported in Cook Park. Luckily, this was the only reported sighting in our park. Wildlife officials believe the cougar has moved on. Cougar sightings and encounters in urban areas are rare. No wild cougar has ever attacked a person in Oregon. Cougars are considered public safety risks when they are seen repeatedly in daylight around areas of human activity. If you see a cougar in Durham, call the police dispatch at 503-629-0111. The Tualatin PD with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will respond.

Free Leaf Disposal

Dumpsters for free disposal of leaves will be available at Durham City Park on:

November 11 and 12

November 18 and 19

December 2 and 3

Pride Disposal and Clean Water Services provide the leaf dumpsters to Durham residents only. Please do not overfill the dumpsters or leave extras outside the dumpsters. When piles or bags of leaves and branches are left outside the dumpster, the City has to pay to have someone clean them up and haul them away.

Because the contents will be composted, the dumpsters are for **leaves and needles only**. Paper leaf disposal bags are ok but no plastic bags, woody debris, or branches.

Streetlight Out?

As we move into fall, you may notice a streetlight that is out, flickering, or on all day. Neighborhood streetlight outages should be reported to PGE on their website or by emailing lightout@pge.com. You will need to provide the PGE tag number and the nearest address. You can find the tag on the lamp post.

